

***GYROPHAENA MUNSTERI* STRAND  
(COLEOPTERA: STAPHYLINIDAE) IN  
HAMPSHIRE AND CARMARTHENSHIRE**

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**Abstract.** The few published records for *Gyrophana munsteri* Strand in Britain are reviewed. Data on recent captures of the species in England (Hampshire) and Wales (Carmarthenshire) are presented.

INTRODUCTION

*Gyrophana munsteri* Strand is a very poorly known British species and was given the status of RDBK (Insufficiently Known) by Hyman & Parsons (1994). They cited occurrences in West Sussex, Hertfordshire and Huntingdonshire prior to 1970 and Radnorshire and North Lincolnshire from 1970 onward. There appear to be very few published records of this species in the British literature.

The name was included as British by Kloet & Hincks (1945), who cited Strand's (1935) paper in their bibliography, but seems not to have been referred to in Britain prior to 1945. In the original description of the species, Strand (1935) included four British specimens among the material examined. The specimens were collected by B. S. Williams on 28 and 29 September 1928 from Ivinghoe, Bucks. Specimens from Ivinghoe Heights, collected by P. Harwood on 28.ix.1928 and 19.ix.1931, are present in the British collection, The Natural History Museum.

Although Welch (1970) reported the occurrence of one male and two females in company with *G. pulchella* Heer in sulphur tuft fungus (*Hypholoma fasciculare* Quel.) at the roots of birch at Holme Fen NNR, Huntingdonshire, on 21.ix.1969, collected by T. Payne, the specimens were later redetermined as *G. minima* Erichson (Welch, 1999), so the record must be withdrawn. In the report of the coleopterists' field meeting in Radnorshire (Key, 1986), *G. munsteri* was recorded from Bailey Einon Wood, SO0861, in June 1986; a male was collected there on 7.vi.1986 by A. B. Drane from a gill fungus growing on a stump (Drane, 1987). It was also listed among the Red Data Book Coleoptera recorded from Breckland (Welch & Hammond, 1996); the specimens in The Natural History Museum were collected at Lakenheath, West Suffolk, TL78, on 28.ix.1969. Although the pre-1970 record for Huntingdonshire must be deleted, it has been found in the county twice in recent years. Specimens were found in *Polyporus squamosus* growing on a rotten, fallen elm in Little Paxton Wood, TL169634, on 11.v.1997 (Welch, 1998) and also on *P. squamosus* growing at the base of a fallen ash in Monks Wood NNR, TL194794, on 25.v.1998 (Welch, 1999).

NEW RECORDS

It is therefore of interest to report three other recent records, one each from both South and North Hampshire and Carmarthenshire (vice-counties 11,12 and 44), extending the species range to the south and west in Britain. A single male specimen was collected in one of two window-type flight interception traps placed next to fallen oak and beech trees in mature woodland at Bramshaw, New Forest, SU2515, from

20–23.v.1999 by R. G. Booth. Two male specimens, one determined by R. G. Booth, were collected from *Trametes*-like soft brackets growing on fallen beech logs at Ackender Wood, Beech, North Hampshire, SU6938, on 13.xi.1999 by J. S. Denton.

B. Levey collected two male specimens from *Hypholoma fasciculare* on a very rotten, fallen tree trunk on 1.x.1996 at Dinefwr Deer Park, Carmarthenshire, SN6122, and a further two specimens, determined as ?*munsteri*, from *Polyporus sulphureus* on a dead tree trunk on 11.x.1996. These Dinefwr specimens were collected as part of a survey of invertebrates of Welsh parklands undertaken by B. Levey and others on behalf of the Countryside Council for Wales, and were initially determined by S. A. Williams

Almost all of the above specimens of *G. munsteri* were collected in company with other *Gyrophana* species, including *G. latissima* (Stephens), *G. minima* Erichson and *G. affinis* Mannerheim. The male genitalia drawings in Palm (1968) were found to be easier to interpret than those in Freude, Harde & Lohse (1974) when the Hampshire specimens were first determined. A key to the British species was provided by White (1977), relying on external characters, but male genitalia should be studied for critical determinations.

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